



The Essay Test

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Before the Essay Test

- Study thoroughly
- Highlight and mark all important concepts
- Choose the major and minor points of the readings and decide which ones to emphasize
- Avoid cramming before the test
- Paraphrase difficult concepts
- Make sure that you study!

During the essay test

- Go for the easier questions first
- Divide your remaining time for the questions you have left after that
- Try to evenly dedicate time for them so that you have time to provide enough details for each answer
- Do a rough outline for your answers after you read each question

Pay attention to Verbs

- EXPLAIN give reasons
- EVALUATE value-significance
- ANALYZE explain in parts
- ILLUSTRATE give examples
- DEFINE meanings
- DISCUSS what you know
- COMPARE similarities
- CONTRAST differences

Structure

- You need a brief introduction
- Turn the question into a declarative thesis statement
- Then, develop your answer accordingly
- Finally, check your coherence and **proofread** your answer!

Avoid

- Listing several facts not related to the question
- Using general sentences without support or specific examples
- Filling your answer with irrelevant details
- Present your information without a logical order
- Expressing yourself ungrammatically or in incomplete sentences

To sum up

- Prepare with enough time
- Reread key points to create a set of basic concepts
- Create sample questions of your own and answer them through free writing
- Answer them by using the key concepts your marked or paraphrased and with support from your notes/textbook